



Docket No.: 22750/516

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : John Philip WEST
Serial No. : 10/034,311
Filed : December 19, 2001
For : HYDRAULIC BEARING
Group Art Unit : 3683
Examiner : Benjamin A. PEZZLO
Confirmation No. : 8928

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

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Date: January 21, 2003

Reg. No. 31,792

Signature: _____

Richard M. Rosati

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

SIR:

In response to the restriction/election of species requirement dated December 26, 2002, applicant elects, with traverse, the species identified as species I (Figures 1-3) for further prosecution in this application. Claims 1 to 20 are readable on the elected species. Applicant respectfully requests that, upon the allowance of a generic claim, claims directed to other species including all the limitations of the generic claim be considered, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. Currently, claims 1-20 are identified by the Examiner as being generic to the elected species and one or more of the other identified species.

It is respectfully submitted that the restriction/election requirement as to claims 1-20 should be withdrawn for the following reasons. The Examiner has characterized the above-referenced application

as including claims directed to more than one patentably distinct species, and requires an election between:


- Species I, identified as Figures 1-3;
- Species II, identified as Figures 4-6;
- Species III, identified as Figure 7;
- Species IV, identified as Figure 8;
- Species V, identified as Figures 9-10;
- Species VI, identified as Figure 11;
- Species VII, identified as Figure 12;
- Species VIII, identified as Figure 13; and
- Species IX, identified as Figure 14

According to the present invention, a hydraulic bearing is provided which includes a journal bearing and a supporting bearing which are joined by a spring body made of a rubber elastic material and border on at least one working space and at least one compensating space, the working space and the compensating space being each filled with a damping fluid and being connected in fluid communication by a damping device. Common to all embodiments of the invention is the feature of damping fluid flowing through the damping device when the journal bearing and supporting bearing are radially displaced relative to one another. All of the claims are directed to a single problem to be solved and have this common limitation. Hence, it is believed that a search and examination of claims 1 to 20 of the application can be made without undue burden on the Examiner. The various species of claims identified by the Examiner are not asserted to belong to differing classes or subclasses. Thus, the searches performed for all of the currently

pending claims would overlap. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 21, 2003



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